

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 9-17, 19, 20 and 27-30 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1 and 25 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 25 and 26 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims, 1, 4-6 and 8 are allowed, as well as the indication that claims 25 and 26 would be allowed if amended to place those claims in independent form. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 1 has been amended so that it now conforms to the description in the specification and the drawings, and claim 25 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. All of the remaining pending claims depend either from claim 1 or from claim 25.

Drawing Objections:

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because some of the features of claim 1 were not shown in the drawings. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 1 has been amended so that it is fully supported by the drawings. Thus, the objection to the drawings have been overcome due to the amendments made to claim 1.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, claims 13 and 29 were objected to because of informalities noted on page 3 of the Office Action. With respect to claim 13, the Examiner suggested that “a V-shaped brace” should be changed to “an inverted V-shaped brace”. Claim 13 has been canceled, and claim 25 has been amended to include the features of its base claim 13, with “V-shaped brace” changed to “inverted V-shaped brace.” With respect to the objection to claim 29, that claim has been canceled, thereby mooting the objection to that claim.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 9-12, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0136325 to Wooley et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,101,491 to Salo; claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wooley et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,418,332 to Schweiger; and claims 13-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wooley et al. as modified by Salo, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,856,841 to McDonald. Due to the cancellation of claims 9-17, 19, 20 and 27-30, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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